City of Sandy Springs

City of Sandy Springs, GA

Mayor Rusty Paul

Pledge Summary

The City of Sandy Springs is the second largest city in metro Atlanta with a vibrant a population of approximately 110,000. Enjoying twenty-two miles of shoreline along the Chattahoochee River, two local forest preserves and hundreds of acres of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, environmental stewardship is a natural priority for Sandy Springs. We became a Bee City USA Affiliate in 2021, and by signing the Mayor's Monarch Pledge, we strengthen our commitment to improving pollinator habitat in our parks and engaging the community in efforts to saving the monarch butterfly and native wildlife in general.

Action Items Committed for 2023

Communications and Convening

- Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.
- Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.
- Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

Program and Demonstration Gardens

- Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.
- Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.
- Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Systems Change

- Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.
- Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city's Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.
- Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u630:v1.14.0.49966]

- Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Past Pledge Archive

Mayor Name	Program Year	Pledge Date	Achievement
Mayor Rusty Paul	2024	12/15/2023	
Mayor Rusty Paul	2023	2/6/2023	Leadership Circle
Mayor Rusty Paul	2022	3/8/2022	Signatories

Action Items

In total, how many individuals have been reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan-Dec)? Please limit your answer to only the number of individuals reached in the answer field below (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.).

12

Of the total number of individuals engaged, how many youth (0-18) were reached through the Mayors' Monarch Pledge in your community this year (Jan. - Dec.)? If none, please write 0." (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only.)

5 youth, 7 adults

In total, how many acres of monarch habitat have been created in your city in the last 12 months? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 3). Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.06

Where was the habitat created this year? Example locations may include residences, schools, places of worship, rights-of-way, roadsides, community gardens, shared public spaces, and more.

Public park

How are you leveraging the Mayors' Monarch Pledge program to engage marginalized communities, such as low-income communities or communities of color?

We are preparing an environmental education session in Spanish.

What was your community's motivation for taking and continuing to work on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge?

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u630:v1.14.0.49966]

The City is committed to supporting its natural resources and is included in its official policies.

What resources have been most helpful to you thus far and what new resources would you like to see to help meet your goals? What resources would be useful to help expand equitable engagement in community processes and access to high-quality, usable nature?

Materials for social media would be helpful

What else should we know about your monarch butterfly conservation efforts over the last year?

We created a wildflower meadow in one of our most popular parks that was an instant success with pollinators, birds, and the public!

Selected Action Items

Engage with Homeowners Associations (HOAs), Community Associations or neighborhood organizations to identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens and revise maintenance and mowing programs.

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions implemented for mowing and maintenance programs.

Engage with city parks and recreation, public works, sustainability, and other relevant staff to identify opportunities to revise and maintain mowing programs and milkweed / native nectar plant planting programs.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

TA22-0008 Section N.pdf

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

City of Sandy Springs Sustainability Division, Stormwater Division, Community Development Department, Public Works Department, Facilities Department

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and revisions/maintenance implemented for mowing or planting programs.

Lead by the Sustainability Manager, the development of the Sustainable Landscape Practices that cover design, construction and maintenance (including Integrated Pest

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u630:v1.14.0.49966]

Management) included several rounds of comments from City Staff. The text amendment was approved by Mayor and City Council, and incorporated in the Technical Manual.

Engage with gardening leaders and partners (e.g., Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Nature Centers, Native Plant Society Chapters , other long-standing and influential community leaders) to support monarch butterfly conservation.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

TA23-0002 Tree Species 02-2023.pdf

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

TA23-0002 index methodology.pdf

How many community organizations and groups participated? Please list them below.

City Staff from the Community Development Department and Recreation & Parks Department Sandy Springs Bee City USA Committee Environment Sandy Springs Georgia Native Plant Society Georgia Audubon Georgia Forestry Commission

Please describe the extent of engagement with these groups and their monarch butterfly conservation efforts.

Lead by the Urban Forest Coordinator, a workgroup comprised of residents and experts revised the Recommended Tree Species List from the Technical Manual. This list aids in the selection of tree species for private and public development. Information about the wildlife value for native species was added, giving them a score (Supported Wildlife Score) based on the number of pollinator and bird species supported. Staff provided drafts that were reviewed and improved by the workgroup. The amendment was approved by Mayor and City Council and incorporated in the Technical Manual.

Plant or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent or culturally significant community location.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

IMG_0933_sm.jpg

Where is the demonstration garden located and how does this location relate to the cultural significance of the monarch (if relevant)? (Please provide an address or coordinates, if possible)

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u630:v1.14.0.49966]

Lost Corner Preserve is a City Park created through the support of the community. The old farmstead showcases a maturing forest and curated gardens, with a focus on native plant species. It is one of the most popular City parks for walking trails and family activities. 7300 Brandon Mill Rd NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30328 An eroding slope in the parking lot visible to anyone coming into the park was transformed into a wildflower patch. Garden for Wildlife and the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts provided seeds and plants.

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Friends of Lost Corner, Sandy Springs Bee City USA Committee

What is the size of the demonstration garden (in acres)? Please limit your answer to only the number of acres in the answer field below (e.g., 0.5 acres). For reference, 1 acre = 43,560 square feet and is about the size of a football field without the end zones. Note: 1 acre = roughly the size of a football field.

0.1

Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway or swap.

How many plants were sold and/or given away at your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

150

How many people attended your event? (Enter WHOLE NUMBERS only)

250

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to host the event?

Keep North Fulton Beautiful

Add or maintain native milkweed and nectar-producing plants in gardens in the community.

Integrate monarch butterfly conservation into the city’s Park Master Plan, Sustainability Plan, Climate Resiliency Plan or other city plans.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

CompPlan_Pollinator.pdf

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u630:v1.14.0.49966]

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

The general public was invited to comment

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

October 2022

Launch, expand, or continue one or more ordinances to reduce light pollution to benefit urban wildlife.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

Sec._8.4.4.___Outdoor_Lighting_Design.docx

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

The ordinance was adopted in a public forum

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

April 2018

Reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides, pesticides, or other chemicals that are harmful to monarchs and pollinators and urban wildlife.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

TA22-0008 Section N.pdf

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u630:v1.14.0.49966]

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Members of Environment Sandy Springs, Georgia Native Plant Society and Sandy Springs Bee City Committee assisted.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

December 2022

Increase the percentage of native plants, shrubs and trees that must be used in city landscaping ordinances and encourage use of milkweed, where appropriate.

Upload any relevant documents, images, or other attachments related to your effort on this action.

TA22-0008 Section N.pdf

What community organizations, groups, or leaders (if any) did you partner with or engage to complete this effort?

Members of Environment Sandy Springs, Georgia Native Plant Society and Sandy Springs Bee City Committee assisted.

What is the status of this action? Please limit your answer to either "complete" or "in progress" in the answer field below.

Complete

If this action is Complete, please include the date it was completed and share a 1-2 sentence description. Please include a copy of the policy by uploading or linking below.

December 2022

Created with the DynamicPDF Essentials Edition. [u630:v1.14.0.49966]